



Illinois Health Information Exchange
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NEWS RELEASE
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Illinois and Missouri Health Information Exchanges Establish Cross-State Connectivity

Missouri Health Connect and Illinois Health Information Exchange Networks Can Now Connect Providers in Both States for Direct Secure Messaging

The Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE) and Missouri Health Connection (MHC) today announced they are among the first in the nation to electronically exchange health information through Direct secure messages across state lines. This landmark announcement comes after the two networks successfully exchanged test messages.

"This is an important achievement to the benefit of patients in both states. It is a milestone for both ILHIE and MHC and we're happy to be among the first in the nation to implement a solution that allows providers to connect across state borders and communicate in a HIPAA compliant, secure environment" said **Raul Recarey, Executive Director of the ILHIE Authority**. "Our collaboration as neighboring states will help providers better communicate with one another to better coordinate patient care, regardless of state borders."

"By connecting with our border states, Missouri Health Connection will help ensure improved care for patients who cross state lines for medical care," said **Mary Kasal, President & CEO of Missouri Health Connection**. "We're excited to be connected to Illinois and look forward to more collaboration in the days ahead."

With Direct secure messaging, care providers can send and receive encrypted health information such as lab results, clinical notes and patient care summaries through a secure electronic mailbox to and from trusted recipients over the Internet. By connecting Illinois and Missouri's health information exchange networks, health care providers can now send Direct messages across state lines. This service provides a less time-consuming and more secure alternative to transmitting information via fax, courier, regular mail or phone calls.

Illinois launched **ILHIE Direct Secure Messaging** in December 2011 as the first phase of the statewide health information exchange network, and testing of more robust ILHIE services, including bidirectional query and exchange is currently underway. To date over 1,500 providers from across the state have signed on to use the ILHIE. Membership includes a diverse array of provider types, including primary and specialty care, hospitals, nursing homes, health departments, and state government entities. Illinois has achieved particular success in active ILHIE Direct usage among behavioral health providers, many of whom have already seen greatly improved care coordination and significant cost and time savings.



The ILHIE Authority, created through a 2010 Executive Order by Governor Pat Quinn, is the body charged with overseeing implementation of the statewide HIE, a secure electronic network for sharing clinical and administrative data among health care providers in Illinois. A robust health information exchange allows health care providers and professionals to exchange electronic health information in a secure environment, which helps prevent duplicate tests and procedures, and ensure the accuracy of prescriptions and other medical orders.

For more information about the ILHIE, visit hie.illinois.gov, or visit ilhiedirect.net for information specific to ILHIE Direct Secure Messaging.

Missouri Health Connection is the state-designated entity to implement Missouri's statewide health information network. For information, visit www.MissouriHealthConnection.org.

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